The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

April 2020 Volume 50 Number 4

April Meeting Will Be On-The Air

From The Prez

On-The-Air Meeting

We will be holding our April meeting on-the-air. Many clubs are doing their meetings on the radio during the current health situation. The ARRL sent emails out suggesting clubs try this approach and reported on groups and clubs who have successfully used this method. How novel, holding a radio club meeting on the radio.

We mentioned the possibility of an on-the-air meeting during last week's net. The response from those who checked in was extremely positive. There were also suggestions and cautions. We could develop some formatting plans before we plan this newly conceived event. Any thoughts or ideas would be welcomed and appreciated, please contact me with your ideas.

One concern I do have is we have two separate groups; one attends meetings regularly, and another participates in almost every net. There is some overlap of members who are involved in both, but many who attend meetings, never get on the nets, and vice versa. I'm not sure why, but it would be great to hear them both on frequency when we have a meeting on the radio. We will announce the on-the-air April meeting on the next two nets before the meeting, post it on the CARS website, and send an email to all members. I will also call any member who has attended at least one of the past four meetings. Besides spreading the word about the on-the-air April meeting, what we really need is participation; please join us.

[Continued]

Bob, K8RGI, has been joining us on our Wednesday nets using EchoLink from Key Largo, Florida. Above is a photo he sent of his tropical shack.

Our Hobby

Most people are complaining about being housebound during the current health crisis. We ham radio operators have a leg up on the rest of the world with the ability to enjoy an awesome hobby and connect with people around the globe without leaving our homes.

DXing, rag chewing, contesting, or one of the many other facets of amateur radio can get our blood boiling and keep us working the dials in the shack even on the most beautiful of days. When the weather is lousy, why should we care; we've got our own radio station possessing the ability to communicate anywhere in the world. We ride the waves, experiencing a freedom most can never imagine.

Dayton Hamvention

We are all bummed there will no Hamvention this year. I had the sad task of calling the bus company and cancelling our reservation. What a contrast to the last few years when riders called and emailed me to reserve a seat, and we would get excited talking about the great event.

I only mention this for anyone who has not heard the Hamvention has been cancelled. I talked to a ham a couple of days ago who was planning to go. The disappointed look on his face told the story of how we all feel. Like they say in baseball - "Wait 'till next year.'

73, Toby, WT8O

Next CARS Meeting

Tuesday, April 14 - 7:30 PM

ON-THE AIR MEETING
On The
CARS REPEATER
146.820

CARS Repeaters

146.820 (-) PL Tone 110.9

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

Allstar Node 47067

EchoLink Node 343470 (K8ZFR-R)

****

443.825 (+) PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.82 Repeater

Brecksville

****

444.75 (+) Receive PL Tone 131.8

449.75 Transmit

Stand-alone Not Linked

Shaker Hts.

Peep from the Veep
Mark, WJ8WM

I had a couple of topics for this month's article; but I decided to stay away from the current event and instead talk about my basement. The basement is going to be home to my radio equipment. It's not quite ready yet.

The fact is it's quite a process. I have stuff, lots of stuff. Most of the items have value but not a proper home. They occupy the floor and they need to find a shelf or cabinet. The biggest problem is I have no real estate for temporary holding. I need to move something to get to something else.

Many years ago, I purchased a used drafting table desk combo. This was "back in the day" top of the line engineering furniture. Now I would like to use the desk portion for radios. I need to move this unit around to accomplish this. I need to open up about ten feet of space to scoot the table in position.

My point to this story is since we all are supposed to be stuck at home, and seem to have some extra time, let's take a look around the house and see what productive tasks we can accomplish. My basement didn't get this way overnight, and it won't be transformed overnight either, but I'm going to make the best of the time I'm home.

Stay tuned for updates on my progress.
Hopefully soon I'll be able to post some pictures!

73, WJ8WM

April Birthdays

Tim Campensa, KD8YQM	4/10/47
Mark Studer, KC8FQV	4/14/64
Gary Berkowitz, K8REF	4/19
Bob Wright, KE8CEO	4/22/63
Vince Bak, N8OVW	4/22/49
John Cobb Sr., KC8WLY	4/23/57
Brian Gerhard, KE8MQI	4/26/62
Joe Berngartt, NC8J	4/27/51
Metro Sinko, W8MET	4/27/52
Bob Check, W8GC	4/29/41

Minutes of the
CUYAHOGA AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
March 10, 2020

It was decided that because of the wide spread of the Coronavirus virus it would be in everyone's best interest that we cancel the March CARS Amateur Radio Club Meeting.

Tech Committee Report

Scott, AC8NW

Success at last!! Shortly after publication of the last *W.O.*, the long awaited Internet connection was made at the main site in Brecksville. Within days of this momentous event, the node hardware and all it's supporting systems were installed, and testing began. Since then, we have made several trips to the site to try to get the various parts to play nicely with each other, adjust levels (still working on it), solve an issue keying the Fusion repeater from EchoLink, changing some things in the controller, etc.

Behind the scenes, David, KD8ACO, and Ron, K8RJH, have been putting in a lot, and I mean a lot,of time deep diving into the code that runs the system to configure it optimally for our uses. I can't thank them enough for their dedication. As usual, Vince, N8OVW, has been right there when we need to figure out something with the repeater and hook up his service monitor. Over the years there has been one constant keeping the system functional, and that is Vince.

Scott, AC8NW, and Ron, K8RJH, hard at work on the CARS repeater system. They, along with David, KD8ACO, and Vince, N8OVW, have spent many days at the repeater site making the system better for all members and users. Next time you see one of them, a pat on the back or an "Atta Boy" would sure be in order.

As of now, members who are interested can access Allstar nodes 47067, which is linked to the 2 Meter and Fusion repeater, and 47072, which is not. Of course, EchoLink is also available on the K8ZFR-R node in the station list. Users may note that connection is possible even if their router is not configured as it needed to be in the past. This is a result of the business grade connection. Again, thanks Ron.

The EchoLink and Allstar systems can be accessed with a PC, or smartphone. The EchoLink app for Android users, and for Allstar, the Dvswitch app. I-Phone users can try the Zoiper lite app. We would be happy to assist anyone with setting up your app's configuration to get it working.

It has been a long two years it seems, since we first tried to implement these systems, and it is still hard to believe that the system is installed and functional. Perhaps it worked out better that way, because a lot has been learned in the interim, and it is hard to imagine that we would have had an easy time of it then, without what we know now.

73, AC8NW

Finally! Internet Service Returns to the CARS Repeater Site
Andy, KD8SCV

CARS members and users of its Brecksville repeater site can mark March 2, 2020, as a significant date. On that date, at 10:37 A.M. EST (15:37 UTC for you purists), Internet service was re-established at the site.

[L] It really happened! The A.T. & T. tech, Nick, arrived at the site in a timely fashion and went right to work.

[R] Ron installs the Netgear Layer 3 managed switch. (See DSL circuit graphic and explanation for more details.)

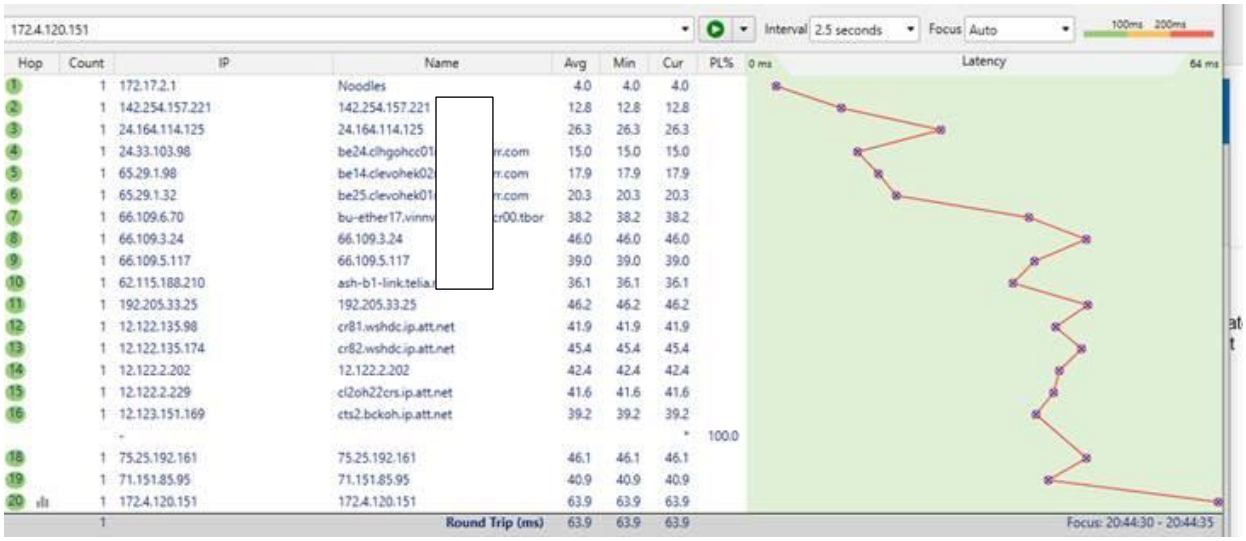
Tech committee members, Ron, K8RJH, and Scott, AC8NW, assisted AT&T's tech installer in making the final connections and running preliminary performance tests. Ron's deep experience and many contacts within the network and telecommunications communities scored us a business-class DSL Internet service at the repeater site at a very reasonable monthly rate. With the service re-established, the plan is to add EchoLink first, confirm its stability and performance, and then progressively add popular digital voice modes (DVMs) such as D-Star and Fusion.

Stay tuned for updates which will be shared with club members as they go live. And, kudos to the tech committee for seeing the service re-established in a professional manner. It's been a long haul, nice work gents!

Modem/gateway installed in rack (circled in red).

Nick, A.T.&T. tech, and Ron run initial tests on the modem/gateway, including confirming download/upload speeds.

[Continued]



Ron said, "The DSL link works flawlessly. This ping plot is from my QTH modem connection to the Brecksville repeater rack. No packet loss! The time was 8:44 PM, March 4, 2020. This would be the time of heavy residential internet usage for the evening period."

[L] Ron, K8RJH, and Vince, N8OVW, happy with the results of their testing.

[R] A close-up view of the test equipment in action.

VE Session

The CARS March VE session brought five new hams into the Amateur Radio Service. Nicholas Stanton, KE8OGE; Tom Wieczorek, KE8OGF; Matthew Balcer, KE8OGC; Ian Geideman, KE8OGD; and Steven Houser, KE8OGM; passed their Technician exams becoming licensed amateurs. We welcome Nicholas, Tom, Matthew, Ian, and Steven into the ham radio hobby. David Stern, KE8LGP, passed both the General and Amateur Extra exams. Congratulations to all.

Special thanks to our outstanding VE team, capably led by Metro, W8MET, and consisting of Gary, NI8Z; Roger, N8TCP; Larry, N8OWS; George, K8KR; Joel, K8SHB; and Darren, K8DMT.

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, May 10th, at 9:00 AM at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net As always, walk-ins are welcome.

The May 10th VE session will include the students from the 2020CARS licensing classes, since the originally scheduled VE session for April 2nd was postponed.

Just Some Ramblings...
Mike, KD8OUE

During the past couple of years, I've become more experimental about new, and developing technologies, and thought I'd pass information on to others by writing articles about different things. In the last article I wrote, I discussed the Amazon Echo smart speaker. This article is about the Ring alarm system. I've been using the system for over a year now, and feel that's long enough for me to pass along my experience to others.

About a year ago, I replaced the alarm system that was installed in our home for the past 8-10 years (and maybe longer), with the Ring alarm system. I'll admit, part of the reason I decided to go this route, was the cost savings. The cost of my new alarm system for one year, is less than 3 months of the cost of the old alarm system. Big savings! So, after checking reviews, from numerous sources, of different systems available, I decided on, and purchased, the Ring alarm system.

Noticing that Amazon had recently acquired Ring, I purchased my system from Amazon. (Figured I'd have better customer service if I had any issues, as Amazon has always given me excellent customer service).

So the system arrives and I need to install it. Yes, it is a self-install product. But, not to worry, if you read, and follow, the directions, it's really quite an easy process. I'm not going to go into all the details here, but you will need to download the Ring app on your smartphone, or other device, and create an account on Ring. And, sign up for the level of service you want Easy-peasy!

From then on, it's basically...plug in the alarm main unit and (**using the Ring app**) set it up, add to your account, plug in the alarm control pad, set it up, and add it to your account, power up the other devices (door sensors and motion detector) and add to your account.

After all devices are added to your account, then install the door sensors and motion detector, where you want them, and you're good to go.

The Ring alarm will require access to the internet, so you will need access to your home Wi-Fi. Ring also includes cellular communication, so if your internet connection goes down, Ring can still operate. In fact, you will receive a notification on your smart phone whenever the system loses Wi-Fi connection, and is using cellular communication.

[Continued]

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H
Elected 5/8/18

Ron Borkey, K8VJG
Elected 5/14/19

The system provides 24/7 monitoring, and will notify you of any alarm activation, as well as any changes to the status of your alarm system (such as being on battery backup due to power failure, loss of internet connection, etc.).

Some notifications can be controlled in the App, by settings of individual devices. You decide if you want notifications when alarm is not armed, such as door being opened or closed.
You can use the app to control the alarm system, change setting from home to away, armed or disarmed, etc. There is even a 'panic' alarm button in the app for you to use if needed.

If you decide to add a Ring doorbell (the camera type), you can share that information with neighbors. Whether you have a camera doorbell, or not, you can see anything that neighbors have shared, using the app.

So far the Ring alarm system has functioned as advertised, and I'm satisfied with making the switch.

As a side note, by linking the Ring alarm to Amazon smart speaker system, you can arm or disarm the system, as well as check the status (whether alarm is armed or disarmed) using the Amazon Echo speaker.

I know I haven't covered everything in this short article, so once again....

If anyone has questions about this, feel free to ask!

73, KD8OUE

April Net Sked

APR	1	N8OWS
APR	8	KD8OUE
APR	15	AC8NW
APR	22	KD8ACO
APR	29	K8RJH

Nets are run every Wednesday at
9:00 PM on 146.820 (PL 110.9)

Radiosport

Contests

April 4, 1400-April 5, 2200, **Florida State Parks on the Air** 3.5-28 CW Ph Dig flspota.org/rules
Exchange: Park ID or SPC

April 5, 0000-0400, **North American SSB Sprint Contest** 3.5-14 Ph ssbsprint.com/rules
Exchange: serial, name, SPC

April 18, 1400-April 19, 2000, **Texas State Parks on the Air** All bands CW Ph Dig www.tspoa.org/rules
Exchange: RS(T), park or SPC

April 19, 1800-2359, **ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB** 3.5-28 Ph www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Exchange: Name, 2-digit year first licensed, state/province/XE area/"DX'

Special Events Stations

April 14-April 15, 1540-0100, **AL4US** Pigeon Forge, TN **Sinking of the Titanic – 108th Anniversary** 14.280 7.180 www.tnpost104.org

April 15-April 30, 0500-0000, **W4M** Glade Hill, VA **Franklin County Virginia Moonshine Heritage Month** All standard digital frequencies; Phone: 28.400 21.300 14.250 7.215 3.850 1.900; CW: 28.100 21.105 14.050 7.050 3.550 www.Facebook.comgroups/2476533519124786

April 18, 1500-2000, **W8PRC** Cleveland, OH **8th Annual Earth Day** 145.410 14.245 7.195 www.parmaradioclub.com

April 25, 0000-2359, **W4S** Fernandina Beach, FL **International Marconi Day** 7.200 ` Certificate www.gx4crc.com/gb4imd

April 25-April 26, 1500-2300, **W8G** Chardon, OH **Chardon Maple Festival** 14.250_www.geaugaara.org

Sampling from April, 2020 *QST* - Pg. 71, 82 and 83. See *QST* for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

Radiosport

QSO Parties

April 4, 1300–April 5, 0100 **Nebraska QSO Party** 1.8-UHF CW Ph Dig www.arrl.org/sections/view/nebraska
Exchange: County or SPC (State, Province, DXCC Entity), (grid square on FT8)

April 4, 1400-April 5, 0200 **Louisiana QSO Party** 1.8-144 CW Ph Dig laqp.louisianacontestclub.org
Exchange: RS(T), Parish or SPC

April 4, 1400-April 5, 0200 **Mississippi QSO Party** 3.5-UHF CW Ph Dig www.arrlmiss.org
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

April 4. 1400 - April 5, 2000 **Missouri QSO Party** 1.8-UHF CW Ph Dig
Exchange: RS(T), County or SPC w0ma.org/index/php/Missouri-qso-party

April 11, 1400-April 12, 0200 **New Mexico QSO Party** 1.8-50 CW Ph Dig www.newmexicoqsoparty.org
Exchange: Name, county or SPC

April 11, 1800 - April 12, 1800 **North Dakota QSO Party** 1.8-144 CW Ph ndarrlsec.com
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

April 11, 1800 - April 12, 2359 **Georgia QSO Party** 1.8-50 CW Ph www.georgiaqsoparty.org
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

April 18, 1600-April 19, 0400 **Michigan QSO Party** 3.5-28 CW Ph www.miqp.org/Rules.htm
Exchange: Serial, county or SPC

April 18, 1800-April 19, 1800 **Ontario QSO Party** 1.8-144 CW Ph va3cco.com/oqp/rules/htm
Exchange: RS(T), ON county or SPC

April 25, 1600 - April 26, 2159 **Florida QSO Party** 7-28 CW Ph floridaqsoparty.org/rules
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

Sampling from April, 2020 *QST* - Pg. 71, 82 and 83. See *QST* for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

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Audit
WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video
AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison
WJ8WM **

Awards
W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic
?? **, WJ8WM, K8ARP

Club Photographer
N8OWS **

Field Day
?? **, WT8O, WJ8WM, K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, K8RJH, N8BBB food

50/50
KD8SCV

Hamvention Bus
KD8FTS **

License classes
KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative
KD8SCV

Membership
WT8O ** W8GC

NET
WT8O **

Newsletter
WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings
KD8QBB ** KD8BAL

Property Custodian's
KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services
K8ARP ** KD8FTS

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM
WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic
K8RJH ** pop, ?? ** coffee,
NW8X ** Donuts

Scholarship
W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, WB8ROK, WB8N

Sunshine (welfare)
Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical
AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, K8RJH, K8MD, KB8DTC

VE Exams
Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail
W8GC **
** chairman or co-chairman

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wt8o@att.net

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even year executive board 2 year term
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odd year executive board 2 year term
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K8ZFR
WT8O

License trustee
W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC

February 23, 2020